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Global conference on development to be considered

Assembly takes up 'Agenda for Development'

GOVERNMENTS ARE LINING UP BEHIND A proposal for an open-ended working group of the General Assembly to complete the UN's agenda for development. The proposal is a response to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's latest recommendations for that agenda (A/49/665), which were presented to the Assembly and debated in a special 21-22 November plenary session.

The Second Committee resolution asks the working group to take into account various proposals from nations and groups including the idea of a United Nations conference on development. The resolution was drafted by Brazil (the country which originally proposed, to the 1992 General Assembly, that the UN draw up an "agenda for development") and tabled by Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 developing countries (G-77).

Second Committee members have scheduled work on drawing up a report to complement the Secretary-General's recommendations to begin 13 February 1995.

Brazilian representative to the Second Committee Sergio Florencio said the working-group format will allow sufficient time and inter-governmental articulation to achieve progress in areas that have proven contentious in the past. Many developing countries, he noted, expressed the opinion in plenary debate on the UN's agenda for development that more work is needed on "hard" economic issues like trade, financial flows, technology transfers, development assistance and debt.

The United States representative to the Second Committee, Hugh Dugan, said that national delegations had had little time to respond to the Secretary-General's most recent recommendations and agreed that the working group should be able to "forge agreement on what is on an agenda for development". He said that the US preferred the use of existing mechanisms and bodies, such as the General Assembly, to the modality of a global conference, which would be expensive, take time to set up and overlap in content with other UN conferences.

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Women's regional meetings completed

WITH INPUT FROM ALL FIVE REGIONAL preparatory meetings to draw on, the secretariat to the Fourth World Conference on Women is revising the draft Platform for Action for approval at the March 1995 meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Platform for Action will then be presented to national delegations and Heads of State at the World Conference, taking place 4-15 September in Beijing, China.

The final preparatory meeting — for the African region — was held 16-23 November in Dakar, Senegal. The Western Asian regional took place 6-10 November in Amman, Jordan, and the European and North American preparatory meeting convened in Vienna, Austria, 17-21 October. The first two regional gatherings took place 7-14 June in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the Asia and Pacific region (see *Development Update* #4), and 25-29 September in Mar del Plata, Argentina, for Latin America and the Caribbean (see *Development Update* #5).

In addition to providing input to the Platform for Action Fourth World Conference on Women , these ministerial-level meetings charted a path for further implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in each of the five regions. These strategies were adopted in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 1985 at the global conference on women marking the close of the UN Decade for Women, 1976-1985.

Findings by the regional meetings "have demonstrated that much still remains to be done and quickly, in order to address the obstacles for the advancement of women in the areas of increasing poverty, prevailing violence against women, impediments to women's access to resources, women's rights, and access to educational opportunities and health care", Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella reported to the UN General Assembly's Third Committee in December. "The

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Trade summit getting results

Measures to spur international trade and improve the access of least-developed countries to the global market are being initiated by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as follow-up to the World Summit on Trade Efficiency, held in Columbus, Ohio, the United States, in October.

The centrepiece of the Summit was a five-day United Nations symposium which issued recommendations on streamlining customs procedures, utilizing "paperless" (electronic) trade techniques, promoting international standards for transmitting trade-related information and expanding UNCTAD's global Trade Point Network. The technical reforms outlined in the symposium's Columbus Declaration were referred to by delegates as the necessary complement to the recently completed Uruguay Round accords, which aim to increase world trade through liberalization of national trade policies.

If fully implemented, the technical reforms would save as much as $100 billion a year in transaction costs, according to UNCTAD estimates.

"The primary objective was to convince high-level leaders that they are stifling their own national economies if they fail to implement these recommendations", said UN International Symposium on Trade Efficiency Executive Secretary Jean Gurunlian. In addition, he said demonstrations and exhibitions mounted at the Columbus event showed countries "what is important to do and how to go about doing it". Two Prime Ministers, 67 national trade ministers and 700 delegates from 138 countries participated in the event.

Ties of trade

In his 19 October address to the Symposium, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that "a world brought together by ties of trade will be inclined to peace rather than war, to co-operation rather than confrontation." He noted that a significant feature of the Columbus meeting is "a new partnership between the United Nations, national governments, local government and the private sector".

A large number of countries have indicated they are initiating reforms called for in the Columbus Ministerial Declaration, Mr. Gurunlian told *Development Update*. In addition, there has been a stream of requests for assistance in opening Trade Points — "one-stop shopping" sites which allow easy access for importers, exporters and investors to customs, foreign-trade institutes, freight forwarders, transport companies, banks and insurance firms. Each site is linked electronically to other sites in UNCTAD's network. There are 30 operational UNCTAD-designated Trade Points in operation in 22 countries. More than 50 Trade Points are in the process of being set up, and the total is expected to reach 100 within two years.

More aid expected

Side meetings held in Columbus to ascertain the needs of specific countries will help UNCTAD sharpen its technical assistance programmes, Mr. Gurunlian said. He also expects increased support from donor countries as follow-up to the conference. For example, the European Union has announced additional funding for opening Trade Points in Africa, and other donors have indicated they will be supporting UNCTAD technical assistance programmes to improve trade efficiency in least-developed countries.

Running parallel to the 17-21 October UN Symposium were other World Summit on Trade Efficiency events: the Global Executive Trade Summit, involving over 300 chief executives and senior staff from leading corporations; the Global Summit for Mayors, at which 150 municipal leaders discussed government/private sector partnerships for trade; and the World Trade Efficiency and Technology Exhibition, with displays by 110 companies and organizations relating to telecommunications and other advanced technologies.

The United States, host for the Summit, and the city of Columbus organized the parallel events in accord with a programme endorsed by the 1992 UN Conference on Trade and Development, held in Cartagena, Colombia.

Several cities have offered to host a follow-up symposium, which is likely to take place in one or two years. ■

Decades begin in December

A 9 December panel discussion of prominent human-rights leaders and activists kicked off the Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004). The Decade will serve as a time-frame for implementing a plan of action drafted by the Centre for Human Rights and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in its current session. In addition to launching the Decade, the event at United Nations Headquarters was held in observance of Human Rights Day, 10 December.

A plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 8 December recognized the opening of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, also taking place during the years 1995 - 2004. Under the theme "Indigenous people: partnership in action", the Decade highlights the role of indigenous people in deciding and implementing development policies and the need for national, regional and international support. The resolution approved by the General Assembly calls for the establishment of national commitees to advance the goals of the Decade and asks UN development institutions to give increased priority to improving the conditions of indigenous people, particularly in the developing countries.

UN tackles international crime

Thriving crime multi-nationals threaten the social and economic development of entire countries and regions, necessitating more effective cooperation among national law enforcement agencies.

This conclusion is at the heart of a strategy agreed to at an unprecedented ministerial-level conference on transnational crime, organized by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch.

"Transnational crime undermines the very foundations of the international democratic order", UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned 142 national delegations at the 21-23 November meeting, held under heavy security in Naples Italy.

Transnational crime organizations (TCOs) control the bulk of the illicit international trade in drugs, prostitution, transport of aliens, gems and valuable metals, body parts, counterfeit currency, weapons and stolen goods, according to reports to the conference. They have moved swiftly to take advantage of international trends towards globalization and liberalization, as deregulation of national economies and cutthroat competition for investments and hard currency make it easier to operate and to hide profits.

TCO leverage growing

The financial and political leverage of TCOs, the reports said, is growing apace with their capacity to corrupt public officials, bribe or extort business leaders, own or control banks and financial institutions, manipulate currencies and stock markets and amass extensive assets in the legitimate economy.

Nevertheless, the remedy should be to build regulatory measures into financial structures and national legislation, rather than restrict the global movement of goods and capital, according to UN Drug Control Programme Executive Director Giorgio Giacomelli.

Noting that wide variations among criminal codes obstruct international cooperation and allow TCOs safe havens from which to operate, countries represented at the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime agreed on the value of "closer alignment of legislative texts concerning organized crime". The Naples Declaration also endorsed greater use of bilateral and multilateral agreements on extradition and exchange of witnesses and evidence; personnel exchanges between national law enforcement agencies; and international assistance to criminal justice systems in developing countries. States "should consider" making money laundering a crime, whether or not an illegal origin of the funds can be proven; requiring greater transparency of banks and other financial enterprises; and establishing laws providing for the seizure of organized crime assets.

"Transnational crime undermines the very foundations of the international democratic order."

—UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Conference organizers pointed out that although the provisions are not binding, the exchange of views that occurred for the first time at a high level is a necessary prerequisite to overcoming centuries-old obstacles to international cooperation. These include differences in crime codes and criminal justice practices and sensitivities concerning national sovereignty.

The idea for a global conference leading to international cooperation against transnational crime was first proposed in 1991 by Giovanni Falcone, a crusading Italian magistrate assassinated in 1992. His work and that of his colleagues is credited with sharply curtailing the national influence of Italian mafias.

To emphasize this achievement, the host Italian Government chose Palermo as the preparatory committee site and Naples as the conference venue. Both cities are base areas for major crime syndicates.

At the close of the conference, Italy announced plans to fund an international centre for training law enforcement personnel to combat transnational crime.

Convention under study

The Conference asked the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to solicit the views of States on the advisability of a legally binding international convention on transnational crime.

A proposal favouring such a convention was proposed by Argentina and had the support of most developing countries. Developed countries favoured instead better use of existing measures. The United States said that enhanced national law enforcement capacities and bilateral agreements are key, and the United Kingdom argued that a better understanding and definition of transnational crime is prerequisite to an international convention. There was also concern among the developed countries that an international convention would be costly and might lead to pressure for increased financial assistance.

Colombian Vice-President Humberto de la Calle pointed out that as organized crime operations are predominantly global, counteracting measures should likewise be global in scope. ■

Correction

The previous issue of *Development Update* incorrectly identified Mr. Giacomelli as Secretary-General of the Naples conference and UN Crime Branch chief Eduardo Vetere as President. In fact, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi presided at the Naples conference. Mr. Giacomelli is Secretary-General of the 1995 Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and Mr. Vetere is Executive Secretary to the Congress.

Agenda

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"The idea of a global conference on development is to strengthen international accord, not postpone it", Mr. Florencio told *Development Update*. "Sectoral issues such as population, women and crime are being examined by UN conferences; a conference on development overall would not reinvent the wheel, but would profit from and go beyond these meetings, especially as regards strengthening the UN system."

The Secretary-General's original proposal for an agenda for development — issued in May 1994 as a counterpart to his 1992 *An Agenda for Peace* — stimulated rethinking of the United Nations role in development. His latest recommendations incorporate views expressed at the 1994 ministerial-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and by international experts at the World Hearings on Development organized last June by then-General Assembly President S.R. Insanally .

In the plenary debate, many developed countries supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that an extended bureau of ECOSOC meet intersessionally to provide policy guidance. But Algeria, speaking for the G-77, advised caution on such restructuring, which might give inordinate powers to a small group of countries.

Many countries echoed the Secretary-General's call for greater coordination of UN development policies and assistance with those of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as with the soon-to-be-established World Trade Organization. There was also support from both North and South on designing a common framework for follow-up to major UN conferences.

Major donors such as the United States, Russia and Japan expressed opposition to assessed contributions for UN development spending, while the Nordic countries urged substantial increases in voluntary contributions. Few comments were ventured on innovative proposals mentioned by the Secretary-General on ways to raise new funds, including a tax on speculative international financial transactions and a levy on fossil fuel use or on the resulting pollution.

The Secretary-General's report said that the debts of the poorest countries should be cancelled outright and that reforming countries in debt crisis should be granted a permanent reduction in their debt stock. Algeria, however, said that stronger language on debt reduction is called for. The US stated its opposition to "massive permanent debt reduction", while Caribbean countries proposed the establishment of a high-level inter-agency working group on the issue.

The report's emphasis on national responsibility for development was supported by the European Union (EU) and the US. The EU and Australia were among those favouring stronger endorsement of the role of the private sector. ■

An agenda for development: key recommendations from the Secretary-General

- **Development must be driven by national priorities.**
- **External macroeconomic forces must support development objectives.**
- **Development assistance must be brought closer to the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product.**
- **An adequate and permanent reduction in the stock of debt for countries in debt crisis undertaking economic reforms should be made. The debts of the least developed and poorest countries should be cancelled outright.**
- **Countries in transition to market economies should be supported by additional resources from the international community.**
- **Further progress must be made on reducing military expenditures.**
- **A common framework should be developed to implement goals established in United Nations conferences.**
- **The fiftieth session of the General Assembly should focus the attention of the international community on forging a new framework for development cooperation. In that context, the desirability of an international conference on the financing of development should also be considered.**
- **The early part of General Assembly sessions, with high-level representatives present, could focus dialogue on development issues in the plenary sessions.**
- **The Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] must be revitalized to fulfil the role envisaged in the Charter.**
- **Consideration should be given to an expanded bureau of ECOSOC, meeting intersessionally, to facilitate agreement on issues for endorsement by the Council.**
- **Greater cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should be pursued through joint initiatives, such as: poverty reduction strategies, sustainable energy development, post-conflict peace-building, capacity-building and improved public sector management. . . . Bringing new organizations such as the World Trade Organization into relationship with the United Nations deserves priority attention.**
- **The empowerment of women, poverty eradication, preventive and curative development, and special initiatives to support African development, are crucial areas in which the United Nations should provide leadership and focus action.**
- **The Secretary-General will convene frequent meetings of all senior officials for the economic and social sectors with the support of the Administrator of the UN Development Programme.**
- **United Nations development efforts must be supported by adequate financial resources. Reliance on voluntary contributions alone, in light of the expanded development mandate of the Organization, is no longer feasible.**

Excerpted from the Annex to An Agenda for Development: Recommendations - Report of the Secretary-General, 11 November 1994 (A/49/665)

Women

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level of participation of women in decision-making and sharing of power between men and women is still unacceptably low and calls in question the basic principles of democracy."

Ms. Mongella stressed the importance of the role played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Each regional conference was preceded by an NGO Forum, as well as a youth consultation; both groups issued recommendations on the regional action plans. Indigenous women from the Latin America and the Caribbean put forward proposals for integration of indigenous people in all levels of development planning in every country of the region, Ms. Mongella added. They also drafted demands for the legal recognition of organizations representing some 23.6 million indigenous Caribbean and Latin American women and for respect for indigenous forms of social organization, authority and know-how, particularly as regards health and the natural environment.

Ten critical areas of concern for women were identified at the March 1994 38th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was also a Preparatory Committee meeting for the World Conference. For the purpose of drawing up regional action plans, delegates at the regional preparatory meetings arranged their priority concerns and named new concerns according to the needs of each area. The agreements reached at the regional level will be reflected in the Draft Platform for Action, to be presented to the 15 March – 4 April PrepCom taking place during the 39th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Europe and North America

The Vienna preparatory meeting — the first for a global women's conference to incorporate the European and North American regions — drew up a seven-point list of concerns. They are:

- insufficient promotion and protection of women's human rights
- feminization of poverty
- insufficient awareness of women's contribution to the economy
- insufficient de facto gender equality in employment and economic opportunity
- insufficient participation of women in public life
- insufficient statistical systems and databases to secure policies and legislation for gender equity
- insufficient regional networking on the advancement of women.

"The level of participation of women in decision-making and sharing of power between men and women is still unacceptably low and calls in question the basic principles of democracy."

Women's Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella

Western Asia

The nine critical areas for action identified by Arab women at the meeting held in Amman, Jordan, are:

- safeguarding the right to participate in power and decision-making structures
- alleviation of poverty
- ensuring equal opportunity at all levels of education
- equal access to health services
- strengthening women's ability to enter the labour market and achieve self-reliance
- overcoming the impact of war, occupation and armed conflict
- participation in management of natural resources
- elimination of violence against women
- use of communications to effect changes in roles in society and achieve equality between the sexes.

Africa

The final regional conference in Dakar adopted a Declaration in which governments committed themselves to forge "a new ethic for sustainable development" based on equal and active participation of women, men and youth as agents of change at family, community, national and international levels.

The Declaration, which was a preamble to the African Platform for Action, stated that factors blocking implementation of the Nairobi strategies included political instability, lack of political will, poor economic performance, the effects of structural adjustment programmes, frequent drought and famine and the absence of women at decision-making levels.

The areas of concern were:

- women's poverty, insufficient food security and lack of economic empowerment
- inadequate access to education, training, science and technology
- women's role in culture, the family and socialization
- women's health, including reproductive health and family planning
- relation to the environment and natural resources management
- involvement in the peace process
- political empowerment of women
- women's legal and human rights
- mainstreaming of gender-desegregated data
- women and communication, information and the arts
- welfare and advancement of the girl-child. ■

The deadline for applications for NGO accreditation to the Fourth World Conference on Women is 13 January 1995. Applications should be sent to:

NGO Accreditation
FWCW Secretariat
Two UN Plaza
Room DC-2 1204
New York, NY 10017, USA
Fax 212-963-3463.

50th Anniversary a global event

More than 50 Heads of State have confirmed they will attend the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on 24 October 1995, and about 100 more are expected to announce their participation in the event, which will culminate a year-long series of activities highlighting the United Nations' first half-century of existence.

The 24 October meeting is expected to adopt a Declaration reaffirming the principles of the Charter and setting guidelines for the the future work of the Organization. The Preparatory Committee, chaired by Economic and Social Council President Richard Butler, has assigned a working group to draft the Declaration. The group will meet every month beginning in January, and Mr. Butler asked them to complete a draft by May 1995.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the Anniversary "is a time to rekindle the ideals of the Charter, to spread the spirit of cooperation among the peoples of the world, to celebrate and to share a vision of the great potential of this unique Organization".

In adddition to commemorative events such as exhibits, concerts, special-issue coins and stamps, the secretariat, headed by Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Gillian Martin Sorensen, is targeting educational programmes for young people.

The secretariat views its role as that of a coordinator and catalyst, with most projects and events being organized by national committees, United Nations Associations and non-governmental organizations. The national programmes aim to stimulate public debate on UN issues and invite creative thinking on how the 50-year old institution can tackle global challenges with greater effectiveness.

More than 80 countries have now established national committees. Projects that are planned range from academic conferences, radio and television programmes and concerts to a United Nations board game in Lao, a public lottery benefiting the UN in Japan, a jingle contest in Ghana and world beat music videos in Canada. ▪

Law of the Sea in force

After nearly three decades of deliberations and sometimes bitter debate, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has become part of the world's permanent legal machinery.

The underlying premise of the Law of the Sea is that the high seas are free for the use of all countries and the deep seabed and its resources are a "common heritage" of humankind.

The legally binding treaty came into force on 16 November 1994 — exactly one year after the number of countries ratifying it reached 60, as per the terms of the agreement. The number of countries to give formal legislative approval has since risen to 68.

At the initial meeting of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, held 16 November in Kingston, Jamaica, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali hailed the treaty as "one of the greatest achievements of this century and most enduring legacies of the era". The Assembly — the body representing all countries which have ratified the treaty or agreed to provisional application of the agreement — is based in Kingston, as is the International Seabed Authority secretariat.

The treaty's 320 articles and nine annexes cover such areas as national jurisdiction over various marine zones, navigation and overflight, fishing and shipping, conservation and pollution, resource exploration and exploitation, and binding procedures for settling disputes.

The treaty says that coastal states may claim sovereignty over waters and air space up to 12 nautical miles beyond their shores, and that they have the exclusive right to harvest natural resources and conduct certain economic activities within 200 miles.

Many of its provisions, such as freedom of passage through strategic sea routes, have become accepted so widely that even before 16 November, they were regarded as legally enforceable, or "customary", under international law.

The Convention was opened for signature in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 10 December, 1982, when 119 States lined up to approve it. No treaty has ever received so many signatures on its first day.

A number of industrialized nations objected, however, to provisions covering deep seabed mining. These regulations were criticized as constituting a potential infringement of free enterprise. As a result, acceptance of the Convention was thwarted for more than a decade.

Convention compromise

The diplomatic impasse was breached in the summer of 1994, following four years of informal talks initiated by then-UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and carried to a successful conclusion by Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

A key compromise gave greater weight to the votes of the industrialized countries in the Authority's Council, where key decisions are made by 36 countries elected from among Assembly members. Other changes include a reduced operating budget for the Authority and elimination of a requirement for mandatory transfer of technology from developed to developing nations. Acceptance of the treaty was also made easier when it became apparent that seabed mining would not be a boom industry, at least for several decades. ▪

Critical negotiations in New York in January

Draft ready for Social Summit PrepCom

Delegates to the third and final preparatory committee meeting of the World Summit for Social Development Preparatory Committee will be working from a new nine-point Draft Declaration, setting broad commitments, and a five-chapter Draft Programme of Action outlining specific measures needed and how they should be put into effect.

The "Draft Outcome" of the Summit was completed in late November, following 24-28 October informal consultations among Governments. The new draft serves as the basis for negotiations at the 16-27 January PrepCom in New York.

The document then will be submitted for the endorsement of world leaders when they gather for the Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995. Officials say it is possible that negotiations on any outstanding issues will continue in Copenhagen.

As of December, over 60 Heads of State or Government have stated plans to attend the Summit.

"Action-oriented tone"

UN Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai, head of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, described the new text as "considerably shorter" than previous drafts, with a "more action-oriented tone" and a new structure that "provides the basis for the incorporation of further ideas".

The text contains a Draft Declaration, which explains why the Summit is vital, and a Draft Programme of Action, which sets out the concrete steps necessary "to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress", particularly poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. Negotiated separately during the first two preparatory sessions, the Declaration and Programme of Action now are presented as a single draft document (A/CONF.16/PC/L.22).

At the heart of the Draft Declaration are nine "commitments" to social progress. (see box).

The document notes that "economic activities, through which individuals express their initiative and creativity and which enhance the wealth of communities, are the fundamental basis for social progress".

But "social progress will not be realized simply through the free interplay of market forces". The draft endorses public policies that maintain social stability and create a national and international economic environment promoting growth with "equity, responsibility and involvement".

Going beyond GATT

Creation of an enabling economic environment, the text says, includes implementation of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). But implementation must be followed by continued efforts to reduce trade barriers, open the international trading system and promote access for all countries to markets, investments and technologies. The text also calls for reducing and eventually eliminating developing country debt.

Left unresolved so far is the question of where the finances needed for implementation will come from. Developing countries are pressing for new and additional resources devoted to social development, while the industrialized nations prefer language calling only for the allocation of "adequate" resources.

The draft text says that donor countries should devote at least 20 per cent of international assistance to meeting social needs. ■

World leaders in Copenhagen would agree to:

- ***Create an enabling economic, political, and legal environment conducive to social development;***
- ***Commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as a moral, political and economic imperative of humankind;***
- ***Commit ourselves to enabling all people to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work, and to maintain the goal of full employment;***
- ***Commit ourselves to promoting social integration and the participation of all people by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just;***
- ***Commit ourselves to achieving full equity and equality between women and men, and to recognizing and enhancing the participation of women in social progress and development;***
- ***Commit ourselves to promoting the economic, social, and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries;***
- ***Commit ourselves to ensuring that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals of eradicating poverty, generating productive employment and enhancing social integration;***
- ***Commit ourselves to increase significantly and utilize more efficiently the resources assigned to social development in order to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and international cooperation;***
- ***Commit ourselves to a strengthened framework for international cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.***

The Main Events

The major global United Nations development conferences of this decade:

World Summit for Children
29-30 September 1991, New York, US

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit)
3-14 June 1992, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

World Conference on Human Rights
14-25 June 1993, Vienna, Austria

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
25 April - 6 May 1994, Bridgetown, Barbados

World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction
23-27 May 1994, Yokohama, Japan

International Conference on Population and Development
5-13 September 1994, Cairo, Egypt

World Summit for Social Development
6-12 March 1995, Copenhagen, Denmark

Fourth World Conference on Women
4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China

Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
29 April - 10 May 1995, Cairo, Egypt

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II
4-13 June 1996, Istanbul, Turkey

Calendar 1995–1996

1995

16 - 27 January
Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (New York, USA)

6 - 12 March
World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, Denmark)

15 March - 5 April
Commission on the Status of Women, 39th session (PrepCom to Fourth World Conference on Women) (New York, USA)

26 April - 9 May
Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II (Nairobi, Kenya)

29 April - 10 May
Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, Egypt)

4 - 15 September
Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China)

24 October 1995
United Nations 50th Anniversary

1996

4 - 13 June
United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II (Istanbul, Turkey)

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